

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 3rd, 2006
SGW Campus H 769 10:00 am**

PRESENT: Mr. Keith Pruden, Chair, Ms. Mary Burns, Ms. Beverley Morris Secretary, Ms. H. Ayouby, Ms. C. Boujaklian, Ms. D. Caputo, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Ms. M. Drew, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms. I. Lacelle, Ms. L. Lipscombe, Mr. R. Lobo, Ms. C. Marshall, Mr. O. Moran, Ms. I. Mort, Ms. B. Mugenyi, Mr. S. Rosenshein, Mr. Peter Schiefke, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms. K. Sheahan, Ms. L. Stanbra, Ms. B. St- Laurent,

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. K Hedrich, Ms. C. Reimer, Ms. C. Schaffer

DELEGATES: Mr. J. Lachance for Mr. J. Brisebois, Ms. M. Lessard for Ms. P. Posius

ABSENT: Ms. L. Toscano, Dr. Mulrennan

GUESTS: Ms. M. Berryman

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One Item was added to the agenda under Campus Wellness: Smoking in the stairwells
A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. S. Rosenshein and seconded by Ms. Marshall.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair introduced his new assistant, Ms. Morris.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF Jan. 20th, 2006

Dr. Shaver requested that item number 8 be amended to say March 3rd and not April 7th.
A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Mr. Rosenshein.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Campus Wellness Initiative

Mr. Moran updated Council on Campus Wellness. The committee, (Mr. Moran, Ms. Reimer, Ms. Shaffer, & Ms. Lussier) has met only once since the last meeting and they are looking at the University's mission statement to ensure that their vision fits the University's mission. The committee is considering consolidating all of the University's health resources: spirituality, physical health, nutrition & volunteering. Mr. Moran remarked that a year ago he circulated a cursory list of health related topics and he would appreciate Council's feedback. He will re-circulate the list and any ideas/feedback is

appreciated by the next meeting. Ideally the committee would like to have some sort of publicity ready for September either on a website or in print. The committee is also looking into various campaign and promotional ideas.

4.2 Smoking in stairwells

Ms. Ayouby reported she has observed a lot of cigarette butts in the stairwell on the 12th floor of the Hall building. Apparently smokers assume the stairwells are not used frequently and they choose to smoke there instead of going outdoors. Perhaps there is a need for more evident signage or, for persons caught smoking to be penalized. Mr. Pruden stated that enforcing the nonsmoking rule without being punitive is an ongoing problem. He reminded Council that Mr. Brisebois is reluctant to issue fines and said that perhaps the new law coming into effect in May of this year will produce some change. Ms. Marshall stated that her impression is that the problem is more staff initiated. Students have informed her that maintenance workers have told students that it is safe to smoke in the stairwells. She asked if it were possible to advise the superiors of maintenance staff that this is unacceptable. Mr. Pruden said that could be looked into. Council asked what the fine was and whether community service could be an alternative to the fine. Dr. Shaver suggested that persons caught smoking indoors would clean up the stairwell instead of paying the fine. The fine is approximately \$49.00 and community service may be an option but it would require administration by some university sector. Mr. Pruden remarked that the University has two disciplinary codes, the code of Rights & Responsibility and the Academic code of Conduct. Smoking does not fall under either of these codes and so the University is trying to establish a regulatory system for enforcing policies and sanctions that are not covered under the two codes. Council asked why smoking could not be under the code of Rights and Responsibilities and Council also asked where exactly does the non-smoking policy fit. Mr. Pruden informed Council that the Code of Rights and Responsibilities is written in a very specific manner and it explicitly does not cover smoking. There are many policies that exist in the University for which there is no enforcement mechanism and the non-smoking policy is one example. It may be that an amendment to the code is required or perhaps the development of a new system but this would be something for other governing bodies to explore. Council asked whether the stairwells are regularly monitored. Mr. Lachance advised Council that there are some cameras but only three patrolmen for the entire SGW Campus. The Chair stated that there are staffing limitations within the department of Security and this makes it difficult for them to enforce policy. It is a much more complicated problem than it appears. Dr. Shaver asked what Council could do specifically to improve the situation. Mr. Pruden explained that ad hoc groups, such as a Wellness Committee are good for bringing forward new ideas. He informed Council that he would like to bring recommendations from the Wellness Committee back to Council for endorsement prior to making suggestions to other governing bodies. Council discussed the possibility of installing alarms in critical areas that would deter smoking indoors. Council agreed that the problem has and will continue to worsen as long as there are no enforced consequences. Mr. Pruden suggested that perhaps if there is money left in the budget we can put up more signs or we might have to use fines until an alternative is found.

4.3 Drug And Alcohol Task Force

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he is trying to schedule a meeting of the Drug and Alcohol Task Force with the aim of revising the alcohol policy to cover binge drinking. Also, the Régie intends to be more stringent with temporary permits. The Régie is looking to authorize no more than three permits per venue per calendar year as this is the law. This will be problematic to the University's student activities. Many student groups use the GSA lounge for activities requiring alcohol permits and if the Régie restricted the issuance of permits to only three, the GSA lounge would only be allowed a temporary permit on three separate occasions. After the third permit, the Régie no longer considers the permits to be temporary. Mr. Pruden informed Council that the D & A Task Force will look at this issue at their meeting and that the University will make its case to the Régie. Ms. Lessard informed Council that Auxiliary Services is also affected by the Régie's decision and her office is looking into the issue with Legal Counsel. Ms. Lessard will inform the task force once the lawyers have gotten back to them. Mr. Lachance asked if it were not possible for Conference Services to have a permanent permit. Ms. Lessard noted that this was already considered and the temporary permit was deemed the best option for the University given our facilities and the requirements for a permanent permit.

4.4 Library

Mr. Curran informed Council that the deadline for the surveys was the last day of February and that of the 3200 surveys that were sent out they received a 10 % response. This translates to over 400 responses; half of which contained useful comments. Mr. Curran will have a full report next meeting.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Student Services Budget

Mr. Côté informed Council that we are entering a new three-year budget term 2006-2009 and as the budget is still being worked on, it was decided that it is best to wait until the next meeting to table the budget. Student Services extended an invitation to all CCSL members to meet and discuss the budget and has since met twice with some student representatives. The invitation to all CCSL members remains open.

The budgets for all of Student Services, Recreation & Athletics and the Dean of Students Office have to be adopted by CCSL, then presented to the Board of Governors where they are approved and then enacted. Since CCSL is the only parity committee within the University it is in a very unique position and as such the adoption of the budget is done differently than in other sectors of the University. The budget that we are preparing is the product of a prospectus from all members of the CCSL, as well as proposals from all Directors based on their activities. It is important to present a balanced budget. Student Services, Recreation & Athletics, and the Dean of Students (all CCSL) are all expected to

be cost-neutral to the overall university's operating budget. Given that the CCSL budget is a three-year budget we need to be cautious in our forecasts of expected service delivery, expenses and revenues. There are three main sources of revenue on which we forecast the budget:

- 1) Student Services fee – which is paid on a per credit basis
- 2) Government grants that are itemized and specifically for Student Services
- 3) Operating revenues from various areas that generate revenue include Athletics & Health Services.
- 4) The University is an unofficial source of revenue that provides direct contributions to areas such as Health Services. The University also contributes through services in kind where certain expenses are assumed (for example renovations costs or if an event is held that requires Security or special printing). Student Services is compiling data on such contributions and so far there has been a million dollars worth of such contributions from the University.

Another important situation in budgeting is enrolment. Between 1996 and 2004 the number of registered credits (FTE) increased by 40% going from 26,000 students to 43,000. 38,000 of those are students taking credit courses and 5,000 are students in the Continuing Education program. Enrolment predictions for the next budget term will likely be conservative as there has been a plateau in enrolment since 2004. Senate has adopted an academic plan that calls for continuous growth in enrolment rather than a substantial growth. We are currently at 23,967 FTEs and the forecast is to increase this number to 24,500. The academic plan also calls for a reshaping of our FTEs where the number of registered students and the total number of credits is expected to shift towards an increase in Graduate Studies & Research and International Students.

The Student Services fee has been \$ 6.90 per credit for the past nine years and the Recreation & Athletics fee is \$ 2.52 per credit. These fees are from separate budgets as the Recreation & Athletics budget is a distinct budget and Student Services' budget includes the Dean of Students budget. The proposed budget will be made up of these two separate budgets. Economic factors affecting the budget include labor and union costs. The cost of the negotiated Collective Agreements caused the University to restate its 2004-2005 financial statement. In Student Services' case the retroactive cost for the Collective Agreements was one million dollars and this amount would have been absorbed by Student Services if the University had not decided to absorb it. However, the difference in the current salary costs and the cost of the new salaries is \$ 880,000 and this amount has to be taken on by Student Services. At the end of the current fiscal year the Student Services deficit will be \$ 400,000; there is the possibility of accruing some of the deficit to the 2006-2007 operating budget. The budget is constantly undergoing changes and this is one reason it could not be tabled at present. Hopefully the environment will stabilize so that a detailed budget can be presented in April. Council members will be invited to attend a pre-meeting on the budget about a week or two before the next CCSL meeting.

Adopting the budget has to be timed correctly so that it can be enacted in 2006/07. Mr. Pruden stated that documentation will be circulated before the next meeting and he re-

enforced that Council is under a timetable. The current student fees expire at the end of this semester and in order to begin collecting new student fees as of September, the budget has to be adopted by the Board of Governors prior to the expiration of current student fees. Mr. Moran asked if the Board has ever rejected the budget and what would happen in such a case. Mr. Côté stated that the budget has never been rejected in his experience; however, CCSL has always presented a unanimous budget to the Board of Governors. If rejected the budget would be sent back to Council for revision. Mr. Pruden remarked that if the budget were sent back we would be forced to request a continuance on the current student fee, but this would be problematic as we are running a deficit. Mr. Rosenshein commented that he appreciated Mr. Côté taking the time to explain all the details of the budget.

5.2 Recreation and Athletics

Ms. Sheahan was happy to announce that construction of Phase I of the new Recreation complex in the EV building is on time. However there has been no confirmation as to how Phase II will be completed. If there is more information prior to April she will advise Council at the next meeting. Council was invited to walk through the construction space as of March 28th. As for the Loyola complex, this expansion is more complex as it involves erecting new buildings and adding on to the existing structure. At the moment the complex is made up of a single gymnasium, an arena, some locker space and a small work out area. In the new space there will be a triple gymnasium, a 25 meter pool, and increased locker room space for varsity programs and for renting, increased study space, and a gathering space. The goal is to make the complex usable/ rentable by renovating and maintaining the current gymnasium to house recreational programs and by improving the ventilation so that the space is usable all year round. Athletics has made a pitch for the expansion to be part of a University wide campaign, where the community would take partnership. They are also looking at government support. Dr. Shaver asked if other groups using the space would generate revenue. Ms. Sheahan said yes, however the University community would have priority. An example is the soccer leagues; they use the field but not the locker rooms. Mr. Pruden asked how many Council members have never been inside the Athletics complex; two members raised their hands. Mr. Pruden remarked that he's worked in Athletics for 11 years and that our facilities are an embarrassment in comparison with other universities. It is remarkable what our teams accomplish given these facilities. For example, the basketball teams have trouble playing on other courts because they are longer than what we have. Dr. Shaver asked what the difference in budget is compared to other universities and why is our budget so sub par, what portion of our budget goes to recreation? Mr. Pruden remarked that historically the priority has been on the academic side of the University. Also, older universities rely on alumni support; Concordia has a small alumni base, as it is a younger university. Ms. Sheahan stated that when looking at the interest that has been generated by the new fields, there is optimism for the new facilities if they are handled in the same manner as the fields. The new facilities are also a good way to attract and retain students. Council agreed that other universities have been successful in acquiring government funding as hosts of "Games" and Council agreed we need such an event at Concordia. Ms. Sheahan stated that the difficulty lies in obtaining support for such events (following the World

Aquatic Games, the city of Montreal dismissed the idea of hosting the 2009 and 2011 University Wide Games in Montreal). The Chair added that given the facilities we have at the University we are in a less competitive position compared to other universities (The Montreal Allouettes chose McGill's Stadium instead of ours). Council also agreed that faculty need to be more involved in the campaign and given the opportunity to promote wellness on Campus, we can also promote the new facilities as part of a healthy lifestyle choice and a chance for recreation. It also offers more activities to the community (summer camps etc). This would likely get more attention from faculty and they will may the benefits of the new facilities.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

6.1 CCSL Awards- application deadline

Mr. Pruden informed Council that the deadline for nominations for the CCSL awards is March 20th. Ms. Burns informed Council that nomination forms are available at both Dean of Students offices, at the Hall building information desk, and all umbrella associations.

6.2 Special Projects

Mr. Pruden informed Council that today was the deadline for special projects and a meeting will be held sometime next week when all the projects are in. Ms. Burns informed Council that there were about 12 projects submitted to date.

6.3 Non-Smoking Club

Ms. Marshall stated that a group approached the CSU about the non-smoking campaign. They suggested weekly resource meetings, guest speakers, and recreation activities for quitters, outings. The CSU recognizes that this is a good initiative. However, given that the group's mandate would involve students (Undergrad & Grad), staff and faculty, Health Services should spearhead the group. Mr. Moran stated that he met with the student who is proposing this project and he has great ideas: activism, support for people quitting and smoke free zones. The group is experiencing difficulty in obtaining financial support as well as their own space. The CSU cannot offer financial support. Ms. Drew indicated that Health Services is already involved in a lot of non-smoking initiatives, non-smoking is within Health Service's mission; however activism is not in their mandate. Also, Health Services does not have the space or the budget for such a program.

Mr. Pruden indicated that his office would recognize the group if they filled out the proper paperwork; however his office cannot fund the project. The group maybe able to gain funding from CCSL Special Projects, however they would have to seek further funding elsewhere (perhaps the GSA or Faculty). Funding would also depend on the group's budget. Ms. Marshall stated that the group has not yet put in a budget but it is expected to be a small budget of mainly printing and advertising costs. Ms. Lessard asked if the groups can be sponsored by both GSA and CSU. Mr. Pruden said no, the

CSU and GSA have specific constitutions and represent only undergraduate and graduate students respectively. The CSU and the GSA can choose to support financially but that's an administrative decision. Mr. Côté asked how the money would be controlled. Mr. Pruden indicated that they would not have an account; they would have money from grants etc. Part of the process of being a recognized student group is having a constitution and a financial plan in order for groups to be autonomous. Council agreed that more support is needed for initiatives that promote a culture of wellness on campus.

7. New Business

Ms. Lipscombe informed Council that the bookstore has installed an e-mail alerting feature to notify students when their books have arrived. Students need to subscribe to the feature. Ms. Lipscombe thanked Council for their suggestion.

Mr. Curran informed Council that the Webster library will begin opening for 24 hours as of March 27. For the Easter holidays the library will be closed on April 14, April 16th and 17th. The library will be open on Saturday April 15th. Mr. Lobo thanked Mr. Curran for the extended library hours on behalf of all students.

Mr. Rosenshein remarked that there were complaints about the delay for security guards to respond to problems. Recently it took between 25 to 30 minutes for guards to respond to a situation. Mr. Lachance said it was difficult for him to respond without knowing the details of what happened. He asked that he be advised of problems as they arise and he will look into them. He also indicated that Security has just added 9000 square feet with the new EV building and added only 3 new staff members.

8. NEXT MEETING: April 7th 2006, SGW Campus H763 10am

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms. Sheahan, seconded by Ms. Ayouby
The motion was carried unanimously.